THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Central hospital at Gurusahaiganj (Kannoj, U.P.) is run by the Labour Welfare Organisation and the entire expenditure on running the hospital is met from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. During the years 2003-04, an expenditure of Rs. 6.90 lakh was incurred on medicines and equipments.

(b) to (d) Inspection/assessment of existing facilities in the hospital is a continuous process. Necessary action is being taken to provide/ upgrade the facilities as and when required.

Unogranised Sector Workers Bill

1728. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to bring before Parliament the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has sought some clarifications from the Ministry with regard to this Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner in which Government propose to fund the social security scheme; and

(e) the details of the agencies that are going to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e) A proposal to enact the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2003 is under consideration of the Government.

Voting right to NRIs

1729. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of NON RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to implement voting right and dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far to implement the same;

(c) whether Government consider to set up help desks for attending to the problems being faced by Non-Resident Indians in Gulf countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No. As regards Voting Right to NRIs, Section 19(b) of the R.P. Act 1950 provides that only a person who is ordinarily resident in a constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency. Accordingly, any person who is not ordinarily resident in a constituency is not entitled to be registered in the electoral roll.

There is no proposal to consider Dual Citizenship to NRIs as they are already Indian citizens.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A 24-hour telephone help-line has been set up at the Indian Mission in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Proposals for setting up similar helplines in other Gulf countries are under consideration.

Gas Hydrates Programme

1730. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects identified to be taken up under the Gas Hydrates Programme by recently set up Indo-Russian Science and Technology Centre for Gas Hydrates Studies at Chennai;

(b) the areas of collaboration in which the Centre is facilitating the exchange of scientists; and

(c) the names and number of scientists exchanged between the two countries in various areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) An Indo-Russian Centre for Gas Hydrates Studies (IRCGHS) was set up on February 12, 2004 at National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) for S&T cooperation with Russia.